The studies conducted by the Survey of India and various other agencies about the verticality of minarets of the Taj Mahal at Agra indicate very insignificant deviation from the perpendicular which indicate that all the four minarets are quite stable in plan as well as elevation.

(b) Various institutions/organizations have conducted surveys from time to time to assess the structural safety of the Taj and its minarets which include:—

(i) Survey for the verticality of the minarets since 1940 at different intervals by the Survey of India.

(ii) Studies related to stress analysis, building materials, Geo-technical aspects and safety against seismic forces by University of Roorkee, Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Earthquake Engineering from 1989 to 1991.

(iii) Studies for Geophysical aspects and stability by National Geophysical Research Institute Hyderabad in 1993.

(c) There is no threat to the structural stability of the monument. Every care is being taken for regular maintenance and repairs of the minarets and monument.

(d) No, Sir. No concern for any damage to the monument has been expressed by the UNESCO.

(e) Does not arise.

Live shells in imported scrap

*72. SHRI, S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scrap imported from Iraq and shipped to India through Iran with live shells caused blast at a Ghaziabad factory leading to ten deaths; and

(b) if so, the action proposed against the suppliers and the importers for importing lethal consignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The consignment of metal scrap imported by M/s Bhushan Steel & Strips Ltd. Ghaziabad, was allegedly responsible for the blast and death of 10 persons. This was

consigned from a party in Dubai, named M/s Lucky Metals FZE, and the country of origin declared was Iran.

(b) A show cause notice has been issued under the FT (DR) Act to M/s Bhushan Steel of Ghaziabad in whose factory the blast took place. Action against importers has also been taken by State Police and a criminal case has already been registered. The matter is under investigation by the State Police Authorities. Further, an Alert Notice was issued by the Deptt. of Revenue on 21.10.2004 that all import consignments, whether metal scrap or not, supplied by M/s Lucky Metals FZE, Dubai are to be subjected to 100 per cent physical examination at the port of import.

Modified Commissioning Programmes

*73. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating with a modified version of commissioning programmes of TV serials, documentaries and short films;

(b) if so, the details of the new schemes to be launched;

(c) how many commissioned programmes have been sanctioned during the last two years and the amount financed to each producer; and

(d) whether some producers are violating the self-finance commissioning programmes scheme by not adhering to the guidelines, and if so, the action taken against each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati Board has approved a scheme on 14.10.2004 of Self Financed Commissioning (SFC). Under this Scheme, the outside producer would be required to produce the programme at his own risk and cost. Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan would market the programme, telecast it and make pyament thereafter. Payment for the programme would be linked to its grading and viewership measured through TAM ratings. Prasar Bharati have further informed that this is, however, not presently being contemplated to be extended to documentaries.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir. The Scheme is yet to be implemented.